



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

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**STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES, STATE SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT JACK O'CONNELL CELEBRATE SAN DIEGO
TEACHERS' FIRST YEAR OF TEACHING, FIRST YEAR OF
MARRIAGE AND FIRST YEAR OF HOME OWNERSHIP**

*State Officials Hope to Make More Teachers Aware of Extra Credit Teacher
Home Purchase Program Which Helped Couple Buy Their First Home*

SANTEE, CA – California State Treasurer Phil Angelides and State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell today joined San Diego teachers Brian and Kristin Ketcham in celebrating their first year of teaching, first year of marriage and their first year of home ownership, made possible through the state's extra credit teacher home purchase program. The state officials visited the Ketcham's new home in Santee as part of a statewide effort to make more teachers and school personnel such as nurses and counselors, aware of the program, which provides low- interest loans and down payment assistance if they commit to serve in the state's toughest to teach schools.

Treasurer Angelides launched the Extra Credit Teacher Home Purchase Program in September 2000 to give teachers and other eligible school employees an opportunity to buy their first home and to attract quality teachers to the schools that need it most. To be eligible, teachers and other school staff must agree to serve for three years in a low-performing or low-income school. At a time when schools have suffered budget cuts and there is a growing need to attract and retain teachers to serve in struggling schools, the Treasurer pointed to the Extra Credit Program as an example of an innovative way the State can do more to attract and retain the best teachers for our children.

"The Extra Credit Teacher Home Purchase Program helps teachers and their families buy their first home, while helping the schools that need to improve the most attract and retain qualified teachers," said Angelides.

The Extra Credit Teacher Home Purchase Program is an innovative program that provides teachers and other eligible school employees with below-market interest rate (currently 4% - 4.75%) loans, as well as down payment assistance of up to \$15,000 or three percent of the purchase price, whichever is greater. To be eligible for the program, teachers must work in schools that rank in the bottom 50% on the Academic Performance Index (API), or have a student body of which at least 70% of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Angelides serves as the chair of the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee (CDLAC), the State financing authority that has awarded \$460 million in tax-exempt, low-cost bond financing to the Extra Credit Teacher Program offered through the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) and nine local jurisdictions. CalHFA, the administrator of the Program in San Diego County, has awarded sixty-nine loans worth \$17 million dollars in the area. To date, more than 1200 teachers, school staff and their families have become homeowners through the program.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell is hopeful the program will help improve the percentage of credentialed teachers who work in the toughest to teach schools. Recent studies have shown that approximately 12 percent of the teachers serving the state's neediest children are uncredentialed at the very time the state needs to recruit 65,000 new teachers over the next five years. "Teachers are among California's most valuable resources, yet they often receive salaries that preclude them from purchasing a home," said O'Connell. "The Extra Credit Teacher Home Purchase Program allows teachers to fulfill the dream of home ownership and live in the same communities as the children they teach."

"It would have been difficult to buy our first home near where we work and with a fixed interest rate without this loan assistance," said Brian Ketcham, who along with his wife Kristin purchased a condominium unit in Santee, on the outskirts of San Diego where they both teach. Brian is a 6th grade special education teacher at Wilson Middle School. "An Extra Credit Teacher Loan ensures that no one has to choose between a teaching career and buying a home," said Kristin Ketcham, a special education teacher at Hamilton Elementary School.

For more information about the Extra Credit Teacher Home Purchase Program, visit www.treasurer.ca.gov/cdlac, or www.calhfa.ca.gov/homeownership/programs/ectp.htm.

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